

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated May 30, 2002, Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-3, 8, 12 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 4-6 and 10-13 have been amended to place the claims in better form for allowance. New claim 20 has been added and is supported in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Specification

The specification was objected to because the paragraph "FIGURE 2." must be deleted. The specification has been amended to delete the paragraph. Thus, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 16 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Claims 8 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 3, 5, and 13 are objected to because of minor informalities:

"a) "inside face (16b)" at line 3 of claim 3 must be changed to -- inside face (16a)--; b) "leak tight bladder (16')" at line 3 of both claim 5 and claim 13 must be changed to --leak tight bladder (36')--."

Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended as requested by the Examiner.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Palmer et al (5,281,388). Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Dickerson (4,065,340). Claims 1-2, 6, 11, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by McCarville et al (5,709,893). These rejections are traversed.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-5, 7-9, 12-14, and 17-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice and claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims as required by the Examiner.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance and request that this rejection be withdrawn.

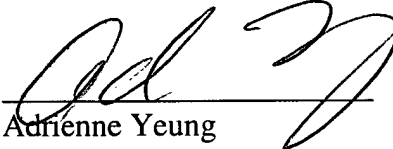
Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Dated: September 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
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